# North Dakota's UAS Integrated Pilot Program











## **UAS Integration Pilot Program**

### **Organizational Chart**

## Strategic Advisory Committee **North Dakota Department of Transportation** Lt. Governor Brent Sanford Brig. Gen. Robert Becklund - NDNG Lead Agency awarded IPP in 2018 by US DOT and FAA Arik Spencer - GNDC Kyle Wanner - ND Aeronautics **NDDOT Director Tom Sorel Russ Buchholz** Nick Flom **UAS Integrated Program Administrator Executive Director** ITD Director — NDDOT **Northern Plains UAS Test Site** Linda Sitz **Trevor Woods Strategic Innovation Manager Director of Safety NDDOT Northern Plains UAS Test Site UAS IPP Partner Agencies**









## **UAS Integration Pilot Program**

### Leadership:

North Dakota remains as a national leader in the development and growth of safe integration of UAS in the National Airspace System.

#### Vision:

Enhance the quality of life for the citizens of North Dakota using UAS applications.

### **Mission:**

Provide operational efficiencies, create new opportunities, build the industry to support and grow the economy, reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries.







# UAS Integration Pilot Program Strategic Objectives

The U.S. DOT and FAA awarded the UAS Integration Pilot Program (IPP) to NDDOT in May 2018. As the lead applicant for this program in North Dakota, NDDOT will work with our partners and stakeholders which include Northern Plains UAS Test Site, city, state and tribal agencies to achieve several strategic objectives.

Our objectives include working with state, local and tribal governments to establish innovation zones for testing complex UAS operations. The federal program's goal is to integrate unmanned aircraft into local airspace and to accelerate the testing of drone or UAS operations.

NDDOT and Northern Plains have strong connections with private and public stakeholders and our objective is to work in a collaborative effort with these connections to solidify additional avenues of exploration for UAS use.

We plan to utilize innovation and integration of the UAS pilot program as a key in expanding NDDOT's future vision for traffic safety, autonomous technology and partnerships.

Safety is one of our main objectives and integrating UAS or drone usage for the safety of the traveling public is essential as we include all 4E areas of Vision Zero: Engineering, Enforcement, Education, and Emergency Medical Services.







## **UAS Integration Pilot Program Goals**

#### Safety

Our first goal is safety to the National Airspace System, its users, and the general public that is impacted. Safety is always on the forefront. The safety benefit of using this technology is not possible without first ensuring safety in the National Airspace System. The North Dakota team has the right partners to safely incorporate technologies that will allow for the safe integration of UAS within the three core challenges which are flying over people, night operations, beyond visual line of sight, presented by the IPP.

Safety for users, employees, and stakeholders in industries that this technology will impact. We intend to increase safety, by focusing on core industry end users in Energy, Media, Infrastructure Inspection, Transportation Safety, and Emergency Response, that we believe represents a good cross section of technology adopters who will benefit greatly from the IPP, and

#### **Public and Private Partnerships**

Since the early 2000s, the State of North Dakota has always focused on working within existing regulations and aligning with industry standards to help build and solve challenges to support the FAA UAS initiatives. The IPP will help to reinforce the Public / Private partnerships. Working collaboratively with partners throughout the state and nation we can develop diverse projects for a variety of areas.

#### **Transparency and Community Outreach**

Another goal is to provide transparency and community outreach. In the past, the general public could simply ignore the aircraft flying overhead, and it would not impact their lives directly, unless a person makes a decision to board an aircraft. Now we are asking the public to accept the adoption of technology that is potentially, personally disruptive to lives, but also has the ability to impact them positively.

Our goal is to provide resources to the public, and gather feedback and insights, so that their input can help develop and shape the future of Unmanned Aircraft technology. Another part of this goal is to be transparent with the public, providing them opportunities to interact with this new technology and be comfortable with this type of advancement within their daily







This innovative technology will enhance our state in many areas. Our transportation system in North Dakota represents a sandbox for UAS ideas and applications, we have just opened the door to that sandbox and we welcome all our partners to walk through that door with us.

Current proposed projects include:

- Energy Distribution Line Inspections
- Media and Emergency Response
- Vision Zero
- Transportation Infrastructure Inspections
- Infrastructure Inspections (Critical) for example: security risks.

#### Webpage of information:

We've set up a web page which lists information about the IPP program and partners that will be working with us at <a href="dot.nd.gov/uas/">dot.nd.gov/uas/</a>

